

BILL # HB 2644

TITLE: fire; building; life safety; department

SPONSOR: O'Halleran

STATUS: Senate Engrossed

REQUESTED BY: Senate

PREPARED BY: Chris Cranny

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Description

The bill changes the name of the Department of Building and Fire Safety to the Department of Fire, Building and Life Safety and creates the Office of Fire Resource Coordinator and the State Fire Training Office within the department. The bill specifies the creation of 3 new positions in the department. The bill is effective July 1, 2006.

Estimated Impact

The JLBC Staff estimates that the bill would have a General Fund fiscal impact of \$94,000 starting in FY 2007.

Analysis

The Department of Building and Fire Safety will be required to hire 3 additional FTE Positions to staff the Office of the Fire Resource Coordinator and the State Fire Training Office. HB 2644 specifies the creation of 3 new positions: a deputy director, a fire resource coordinator, and a state fire training officer. The fire resource coordinator and deputy director positions will cost the General Fund \$94,000 and the fire training officer position will cost the Fire, Building and Life Safety Fund \$36,500 since the position generates revenue for that fund. In the calculation of costs for the 3 FTE positions, the minimum of each respective positions salary range was used. The salary grades consist of an E2 and two 21s. The costs could be higher if these positions' salaries are greater than the minimum of the salary range. These grades were determined by the Arizona Department of Administration.

The bill also removes the current statutory caps for the following fees: \$90 for the application of a fire safety permit, \$20 for a construction plan submission, \$40 per hour for review of the plan, and \$30 for re-inspection.

The department has the authority to charge construction contractors the aforementioned fees, but has not done so in the past due to the lack of administrative rules to accompany the statute. The department, however, plans to proceed with collecting these fees at the current statutory maximums. Since these monies could be collected under current law, the JLBC Staff does not view the bill as resulting in new revenues.

The Fire, Building and Life Safety Fund is a non-appropriated fund that is not established in statute, nor is it established in statute that the fees mentioned above will be deposited into the Fire, Building and Life Safety Fund. Historically, the department has deposited similar fees, such as fees for its fire training school into the fund and all of the department's other funds are statutorily mandated to exclude the deposit of such fees.

Local Government Impact

None

4/26/2005